IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 10 as follows:

--User information will be described with reference to Fig. 3. Fig. 3 shows a data structure example of user information stored in the FLASH memory 31 of the portable storage unit, i.e., the HDD unit 20 according to the embodiment. In the embodiment, pieces of information on [[for]] four users are registered as user identification information, and "user A", "user B", "user C", and "user D" are pieces of identification information The embodiment will exemplify four users, but the number of users can be arbitrarily set. In order to identify an individual, information such as the user's name which can specify the user is generally registered and used as identification information. Various pieces of information are registered and stored in correspondence with pieces of identification information. The embodiment will describe "password information", "owner", and "mounter".--